

appears to have reached its very highest development in the Canadian militia, for these efforts far from being encouraged have been met at every turn by official ignorance and departmental discouragement. And this, under a government owing its present lease of power to its supposed devotion to the Old Flag, with all of the responsibilities which fealty to that venerable bit of bunting implies.

And now we are told that this same aggregation of political wisdom and abnormally developed loyalty has determined in cold blood to still further lower the standard of the efficiency in the militia. Well, all we can say, and we say it advisedly and with full knowledge of the facts and of the feeling among the members of the militia, is that any lowering of of the present standard of efficiency will produce a force utterly beneath contempt as a military body, a disgrace to this fair Dominion of ours and utterly useless as a portion of the defensive system of the great empire of which this country forms a part.

We are firmly of the opinion that the present trouble is due altogether to a failure on the part of the government to devote that consideration to the subject of national defence that it deserves. The members of the government have their time taken up with details of administration they should hardly require to meddle with, and would not but for the desire to keep the departmental patronage under personal control. They have not the time to devote to the consideration of big questions like that of national defence. The public, which would otherwise compel the government to act in the matter, is ignorant of the true position of affairs, and those who are alone able to expose the rottenness of the present system, the members of the force, are gagged by law. The only hope of a satisfactory solution of the difficulty lies in the possibility of securing the return to parliament of a phalanx of able representatives, posted on the present position of the militia, appreciating the immense importance of putting the force upon a satisfactory footing, and determined that it shall be done. We really cannot

imagine why one or the other of the great political parties of the country does not make militia reform a prominent plank in its platform, for a vigorous militia policy would be popular with the people of Canada, who, apart altogether from sentimental considerations, appreciate the value of British connection and would be willing to pay the piper.

A prominent retired member of the militia force remarked the other day that he was surprised that the Imperial government did not intervene to insist upon the Dominion government doing its duty towards the system of Imperial defence by maintaining the militia force in some sort of an efficient state. The mother country certainly has every right to expect Canada to do her duty in this respect, for at time of confederation millions of pounds sterling worth of property were handed over to the Dominion on the express stipulation that the defence of the country should be efficiently maintained. What a state of things an Imperial commission would reveal!

The Imperial authorities do things in a queer way some times; but we can discount them with great facility over here. When the Lee-Metford rifle was adopted for the army the ammunition had not been decided upon. The militia department has imported and installed in the cartridge factory at Quebec the necessary machinery for making small bore cordite ammunition, and our force is still armed with our venerable friend the Snider. The government does not appear to have decided yet that re-armament is necessary.

By the bye, what has become of the money saved on last year's estimates by failing to turn out the rural corps for camp? It was said at the time that the money was to be devoted to the purchase of the first installment of a modern rifle. While asking questions, too, what has become of the several thousand stands of Martini-Henry rifles we used to have in militia stores, which were sent to England to be converted into the discredited counterfeit Martini-Metfords?

The government organ at Ottawa gravely suggests that an inquiry

be instituted to ascertain why the number of admissions to the Royal Military College at Kingston has fallen off. The editor of the *Citizen* can easily get all the information he requires if he will but turn up the militia list, note what a small proportion of the commissions in the permanent force have been allotted to graduates of the Royal Military College, and then think for a moment what the college is maintained for.

Programme of Province of Quebec Rifle Association Matches.

The 27th annual prize meeting of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association will be held on the Cote St. Luke ranges, Montreal, beginning on Wednesday Aug. 7th and lasting three days. The programme as will be seen by the following résumé, will be a very attractive one, and should induce a large attendance of outside riflemen.

The reduction in the number of men composing the Carlskake teams to five men should bring down a number of both western and eastern riflemen, and thus increase if possible the interest which this match always creates.

Another change for the better is the abolition of sighting shot tickets the charge for sighting shots being included in the entrance fees.

Altogether this meeting promises to be one of the most successful which this association has ever held.

PROGRAMME.

AUGUST 7TH 1ST MATCH.

Nursery—7 shots at 500 yards, entrance fee 50 cts., 15 prizes—value \$63.00, 1st \$10.00.

2ND MATCH.

Merchants, series A—7 shots at 200 and at 600 yards, 200 yards kneeling, 600 yards usual. 40 prizes value \$223.00, 1st prize \$20.00. Entrance fee \$1.35.

Merchants, series B, open only to those who enter and shoot through the whole series of matches and who have never won a \$5.00 prize in any previous Dominion or provincial meeting. Entrance fee 25 cts. No. of prize 10, value \$65.00, 1st prize \$10.00.

3RD MATCH.

Association—7 shots at 500, and 10 shots at 600 yards, 42 prizes, value \$233.00, 1st prize \$20.00. Also 4 team prizes for teams of 5 men, value \$65.00, 1st prize silver cup presented by Messrs. Simpson, Hall, Miller & Co. and \$20.00.

4TH MATCH.

Active militia—7 shots each at 200, 500 and 600 yards, standing or kneeling at 200 yards, 42 prizes, value \$233.00, 1st prize \$20.00. Also 4 team prizes for teams of 6 men, value \$60.00, 1st prize \$24.00.

Corporation of Montreal Jubilee Cup, will be awarded to Montreal team making highest score in this match.